

**WILMETTE, IL
DECEMBER 13, 2010**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, December 13, 2010, at the Mikaelian Education Center, 615 Locust Road, Wilmette, Illinois. President Keith Dronen called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Members Present: Keith Dronen, Kimberly Alcantara, Pamela Davidson, Karen Donnan, John Flanagin, Cindy Levine, Judy Schnecke

Members Absent: None

Administrators Present: Ray Lechner, Margaret Clauson, Crystal LeRoy, Toni Shinnars, Denise Thrasher

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 15, 2010 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Mrs. Donnan moved, seconded by Mrs. Schnecke, to accept the minutes of the November 15, 2010 Regular Board Meeting. These were approved by **General Consent**.

PRESENTATIONS FROM AUDIENCE

None

INFORMATION ITEMS

Written Communication

Craig Furfine, Shang Xiong, Jeanette Lyons-Gridley, Carlos Diaz, Nancy Prial, and Melanie and Scott Campbell regarding New Trier math

Administrative Announcements

Dr. Lechner announced that the filming at Central School of Contagion was complete and that Matt Damon met with student writers at Central.

New software will make the Board meeting available live on the Internet beginning early next year.

Presentation of FY10 Annual Financial Audit

Scott Duenser, CPA, of Klein, Hall & Associates, LLC, presented the FY10 annual financial audit, Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) of District 39's finances. He explained that this was the most complete audit that could be issued and reviewed it. The company issued an unqualified opinion in the CAFR for District 39 and ISBE awarded their top rating of Financial Recognition to District 39. Mr. Duenser thanked Dr. LeRoy and Gail Buscemi for their timely and efficient help.

Mr. Dronen thanked the administration for the hard work that produced the highest recognition awarded by ISBE for the ninth year in a row.

District Finances

Dr. Lechner explained that this past July a \$5.6 million deficit was projected for the 2011-12 year. Since that time the District has found \$1.7 million in permanent reductions to the budget and that any further cuts would impact programs and services to students.

Financial Projections Update

Elizabeth Hennessey of William Blair & Co. reviewed the latest projections and assumptions. The EAV assumptions have not changed. She reviewed the permanent cuts, which would impact the budget positively for ongoing years, therefore the deficit has been cut to \$3.72 million for FY12. She said that a tax increase of \$7,650,000 was needed, about \$58.80 per \$1,000 taxes paid. This would be a five-year solution, which meant the monies should last the District until 2016. She explained how taxes would be impacted without an additional tax increase, and with an increase.

Mrs. Donnan asked about the fund balance. Ms. Hennessey said the District has generally kept a 40% fund balance, but these projections showed it to be 30%. Ms. Hennessey explained the importance of a fund balance, explaining that the state accepted a 25% fund balance as good.

Program Costing Review

Dr. Lechner explained again how the District came to this impending financial predicament. He noted that the District was trying to avoid a financial problem, it had not yet happened. He reviewed the problems that are current and impending. He explained that the District was in a strong financial position and was working to remain that way, but before next school year changes would have to be made.

Program Costing Document

Dr. Lechner reviewed the third costing document, noting once again that the items labeled R could be reduced without impacting students and services. He noted the change concerning instructional music and he said the New Trier superintendents were meeting to work on cost savings. 2.1 and 2.2 cuts would be implemented if no other revenue sources were found.

Possible K-8 Programming Changes 2011-12

Dr. Clauson said this report explained cuts that would be made if no more revenue was found and these would impact student services. She reviewed additional changes that were made since last month, highlighting that the fee for instrumental music had been reduced from last month. Dr. Clauson noted the concern of the elementary principals about sharing teachers, which would make the classroom schedule choppy. Dr. Sue Kick, principal of Harper School, representing the elementary principals explained how some of these programming changes impacted students.

Mr. Flanagan asked about the science adoption. Dr. Shinnars reviewed the procedures for adopting new curriculum. Mr. Flanagan noted that it had been ten or eleven years since the last science adoption. Ms. Levine noted that collaboration and peer learning were very important for improving districts. Mrs. Schnecke asked about the music fees and billing in three cycles, which Dr. Lechner said would be available. She made a suggestion regarding the fees, which was well received. Mrs. Donnan commended

the administration for all of the hard work to offer such a fine presentation so that the cuts could be understood.

Dr. Lechner noted that the work over the last few years of collaboration have shown their fruit in three Blue Ribbons and high rankings of all of the District schools. Mrs. Alcantara noted that these programming changes were not sustainable for the District.

Typical Family Student Expense/Township Comparison

Dr. Lechner said our fee structure was comparable to the other township districts. Dr. LeRoy said that kindergarten and first grade fees were lower than the other districts and higher in the other grades. She said D39 was in line with the other New Trier elementary districts. Mrs. Donnan thanked the business office for putting this together for the Board.

School Improvement Plans – Harper and Central

Dr. Sue Kick, Principal of Harper, gave an update on last year's goals and some highlights. The three new goals are to continue going green – improve overall energy efficiency/consumption, waste reduction and “greenness” (two year goal); develop and implement an instructional plan that will improve the quality of student writing; support 21st century learning by focusing on technology and communication (CONNECTED) (two-year goal). She reviewed why these goals were chosen.

Mrs. Schnecke commended the fact that the SMART Boards were used during the faculty meetings. Ms. Levine asked about the consistency of the writing goals across the District.

Melanie Horowitz, Principal of Central, explained that last year's goals were mostly accomplished. She reviewed the writing goal, the CONNECTED goal, and the green goal.

Mrs. Schnecke thanked everyone for coming and commended the work.

School Calendar for 2011-2012

Dr. Lechner noted that District 39 calendar was basically the same calendar as the current year and would be presented in January for approval.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE

None

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Donnan moved, seconded by Mrs. Schnecke, to approve the personnel report dated December 13, 2010 for the non-certificated full-time employment of **Walter Pituc**, effective November 29, 2010; the temporary employment of **Daniel Levy**, effective November 29, 2010; **Angela Paleothodoros**, effective December 6, 2010; the non-certificated resignation of **Marissa Adams**, effective December 17, 2010; the certificated retirement of **Catherine Flemming**, effective the end of the 2015-2016 school year; **Theresa Hennessy**, effective the end of the 2015-2016 school year; the non-certificated retirement of **Rita Conway**, effective August 31, 2011; **Sharon Coppenger**, effective June 1, 2011; **Vajiheh (Virginia)**

Yadgar, effective November 29, 2010; to approve as second and final reading Policy 7:285 Food Allergy Management Program; to approve the 2010 Levy and accompanying resolutions contained herein for requested amounts that can be summarized as follows:

Educational	\$30,140,753
Operations & Maintenance	4,097,917
Transportation	228,226
Working Cash	101,434
IMRF	892,616
Social Security	892,616
Life Safety	760,752
Tort Immunity	760,984
Special Education	222,438
Total Aggregate Levy:	\$38,097,736;

to accept the fiscal year 2010 Annual Financial Audit and Comprehensive Audit Financial Report for Wilmette Public Schools as presented by Klein, Hall & Associates, LLC, of Aurora, Illinois.

On a roll call vote on the motions, voting “aye” – Kimberly Alcantara, Pamela Davidson, Karen Donnan, John Flanagan, Cindy Levine, Judy Schnecke, Keith Dronen; voting “nay” – none; absent – none.

Motions Carried.

Bills for Payment

Mrs. Donnan moved, seconded by Mrs. Schnecke, to approve the accounts payable bills listed between November 16, 2010 – December 13, 2010, in the following amounts: Educational Fund, \$322,356.04; O & M Fund, \$74,828.99; Debt Service Fund, \$59,000; Transportation Fund, \$40,513.45; Tort Fund, \$202,704.00; Capital Improvements Fund, \$121,920.47; Total all Funds, \$821,322.95; to approve the manual checks issued between November 15, 2010 – December 13, 2010, in the following amounts: Educational Fund, \$346,992.45; O & M Fund, \$33,812.89; Transportation Fund, \$3,680.22; Tort Fund, \$40.00; Total All Funds, \$384,525.56.

Mrs. Donnan asked about revenue. Dr. LeRoy noted that \$7 million received in November of last year and this year we received \$840,000.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “aye” – Kimberly Alcantara, Pamela Davidson, Karen Donnan, John Flanagan, Cindy Levine, Judy Schnecke, Keith Dronen; voting “nay” – none; absent – none.

Motion Carried.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None

CONFERENCE ITEMS

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Committee Reports

Community Review Committee – Dr. Shinnors said the meeting was informative.

Educational Foundation – Ms. Levine reminded the audience of a year-end opportunity to honor teachers through the Foundation.

LICA – Mrs. Schnecke said LICA previewed its new website and they are sending a deaf team to compete in an academic bowl in Washington, D.C.

School Finance – Mr. Dronen said most of the Board members were at the last meeting where a lengthy discussion on New Trier math and program costing took place.

Board Agenda Items

None

Good and Welfare

Mrs. Schnecke thanked everyone who was involved in preparing the School Improvement Plans.

Mrs. Donnan moved, seconded by Mrs. Schnecke, to adjourn to executive session to discuss matters pertaining to student discipline and collective bargaining.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “aye” – Kimberly Alcantara, Pamela Davidson, Karen Donnan, John Flanagan, Cindy Levine, Judy Schnecke, Keith Dronen; voting “nay” – none; absent – none.

Motion Carried.

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 9:01 p.m. and returned to the regular meeting of the Board of Education at 9:26 p.m.

Being no further business, Mr. Flanagan moved, seconded by Mrs. Schnecke, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education. It adjourned at 9:27 p.m. by **General Consent**.

 President

 Secretary